

Chorus Urbanus Productions  
present



# MUSICAL THEATRE

conductor

**John Galea**

with the participation of  
**Malta Concert Orchestra**  
**Chorus Urbanus soloists**  
**Chorus Urbanus**  
**Urbanus Junior Choir**  
**Centre Stage Dance Academy**

St. Augustine Square  
Victoria, Gozo

27th July 2019  
8.30pm



**Gozo Cultural**  
Support Programme



# Concert Programme

It's a hard knock life	<i>(Annie)</i>
Bui Doi	<i>(Miss Saigon)</i>
Don't cry for me Argentina	<i>(Evita)</i>
Maybe	<i>(Annie)</i>
Memory	<i>(Cats)</i>
Tonight - Balcony scene	<i>(West Side Story)</i>
Food Glorious Food	<i>(Oliver)</i>
Edelweiss	<i>(Sound of Music)</i>
Do you hear the people sing	<i>(Les Miserables)</i>
Climb every mountain	<i>(Sound of Music)</i>
Masquerade	<i>(Phantom of the Opera)</i>
Consider yourself	<i>(Oliver)</i>
Do Re Mi	<i>(Sound of Music)</i>
Where is love	<i>(Oliver)</i>
All I ask of you	<i>(Phantom of the Opera)</i>
Who will buy	<i>(Oliver)</i>
My favourite things	<i>(Sound of Music)</i>
I'll do anything	<i>(Oliver)</i>
One day more	<i>(Les Miserables)</i>
When you believe	<i>(The Prince of Egypt)</i>

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Chorus Urbanus  
Urbanus Junior Choir  
Malta Concert Orchestra  
Centre Stage Dance Academy

conductor

**Dr John Galea**

## Acknowledgements

Hon Dr. Justyne Caruana, Ministry for Gozo, Malta Arts Council, Citadel Video Communications, TVM, NET TV, ONE, RTK, Radju Malta, Net FM, ONE Radio, Danusan, Victoria Local Council, Legion of Mary, Oratory Don Bosco, APS Bank, Joseph Portelli Projects, Michael Grech Financial, Silhouette, Meylak Jewellers, Marchese



# Feel the Magic - The Project

Feel the Magic represents a strong three-year vision that seeks to place the arts and creativity at the heart of Gozo's future. The project supports the implementation of a series of high-profile concerts in collaboration with international and national organizations and aims to develop a co-ordinated yearly programme of events.

## Mission Statement

Chorus Urbanus Productions is a non-profit organization that is a very active protagonist in the national cultural scenario. It is the organization's mission to co-ordinate and present notable cultural events throughout the year. It is our policy to produce and present concerts of a very high standard both by local and international artists within the limits of our budgetary constraints, that are however generously supported by the Gozo Cultural Support Programme Fund. The Feel the Magic Project is spread over four major concerts per year (one for every season) and one Grand Concert featuring various soloists, Choir, Children's Choir, Orchestra, and Choreography, in the open-air during the Summer months.

## Aims and Objectives:

The philosophy behind the setting up of this project is triggered by a culturally rich and eminently educational approach. Our policy gives a high priority to the promotion of top-level local talent to share the limelight with foreign high-calibre artists. It is our objective to enhance the international status of the Project with seasoned local and international performers being invited to perform a varied repertoire that promises to be exciting in its exploration of the magic of the Arts.

## Artistic Development:

A network of professional relationships is enabled through the local and international contacts enjoyed by our Artistic Director, Dr John Galea. This gives a stronger and more excellent profile to the Project. Apart from master classes, the project caters for the educational programme that gears its focus on local musicians and our own choristers by providing them with a platform from where they would have the opportunity to perform along other international artists to a culturally enlightened audience, who are the net beneficiaries of these concerts.

## Audience Development:

Inclusivity features highly on our cultural agenda. The level of excellence that is being foreseen in the quality of the concerts does encourage audiences with diverse tastes of genres, coming from all walks of life to attend. The Organizers of the Project will also strive to attract tourists who happen to be visiting the islands throughout the whole year. Contacts are being made with tour operators, hotels, estate agents and other strategic partners as the Feel the Magic excitement is already starting to generate their interest in our project.

It is envisaged that Social Networking is undertaken to help an extensive reach out. One way of achieving this is certainly the setting up of our website, where communication and accessibility to information about programmes, artists, general information with regard to 'how to get there' directions, thus making it easier for the organisation to attract a wider range of people interested to attend. A Facebook page is also set up to achieve efficient ways of social networking to reach out to new audiences through an aggressive page promotion and advertising.

## Project Sustainability:

The Project organisers acknowledge the solid contributions of various sponsors, without whose support the rich cultural content of the project will fail to achieve its objective of wide dissemination. Through these sponsorships, we will continue to dream and achieve and ensure that the high reputation of Gozo as a cultural destination of excellence is maintained.

## Art Forms addressed by the Project:

The programme projected for this year, presents four contrasted Feel the Magic concerts showcasing prime artistic

quality, and an open-air Grand Concert – Feel the Magic of Musical Theatre. The idea is to present an eclectic sequence of artistic endeavours that show the unity in diversity that the Arts can offer.

#### Audience Category and Participation:

The project is designed to attract a diverse and wide audience, with a wide-spread appeal where diverse tastes are addressed! Such is the philosophy behind the Project that promises events that are attractive and compelling to one and all. It is our ardent desire to build a group of Friends of Chorus Urbanus Productions where members will participate in the actual feedbacks and suggestions as to what they would like to be included in future editions of the Feel the Magic Project. This is no mean feat but we are sure that we have the will to make it happen!

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## Chorus Urbanus

Chorus Urbanus was officially set up in 1975 on the initiative of Fr Joseph Gauci and the late Joseph Bezzina. Over many years it has become a major choir drawing members from all over Gozo.

The choir has organised regular master classes delivered by Prof. B.K. Dobрева, former Dean of the State Academy of Music in Sofia and her assistant Ms M. Atanassova, and by Mro Marco de Gaspari, the choir master at La Scala, Milano, made possible through a Malta Arts Fund grant. During these last years the members of Chorus Urbanus have also undergone vocal coaching with Juliette Bisazza-Zanni. Moreover, the choir enjoys the professional leadership of Mro Dr John Galea, from the Music Studies Department at the University of Malta, its musical director since 1979.

The choir has performed representative choral works such as Rossini's Stabat Mater, Mozart's Coronation Mass and Gounod's Messe Solennelle en l'honneur de Sainte Cecile, Puccini's Messa di Gloria and John Galea's Missa Ignes Charitatis, Missa Fons Vitae and Missa In Fractione Panis, the latter during the Papal Mass on the Granaries, Floriana, during Pope Benedict XVI visit to Malta. The choir is also the main exponent of Dr Galea's works written specifically for it. Under his direction, Chorus Urbanus has performed with top musical institutions such as the Eurofilharmonica Fiorentina (Italy), the Manoel Theatre Orchestra (Malta), The Thoresby Colliery Brass Band (UK), the Sofia Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria), the Kurgan Symphonic Orchestra (Russia), the Sofia Collegium Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria) and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra.

Touring has formed a major plank in the choir's consolidation and concert structure. It is the first Gozitan choir to travel abroad for singing engagements. During its past choral tours the choir has been invited to perform in Italy, Switzerland, UK, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, Greece and France.

The Choir has a number of CD's to their credit namely, Brass and Voices together with Thoresby Colliery Brass Band, Nicolò Isouard's Messa Leggiera and John Galea's symphonic poem Ġgantija, both with the Sofia Symphony Orchestra, John Galea's oratorio Il-Qalb ta' Kristu and its Italian version Il Cuore di Cristo with the Sofia Collegium Symphony Orchestra, published and released by EMI Publishing Milano and Soundscapes of a Mediterranean Culture - Unleash your senses published by Magro Bros. Creativity Centre. The choir is also featured in 1000 voix à la Cathédrale, the grand Christmas Concert screened from Strasbourg in 2005. This concert where Chorus Urbanus represented the Maltese Islands together with another twenty four choirs from the various members of the EU, was published on DVD by Les Noelies (Alsace), Europa Cantat and France 3.

On the strength of its high artistic standards and credentials, Chorus Urbanus was affiliated to Europa Cantat, now European Choral Association - Europa Cantat and given recognition as the first choir from the Maltese Islands to become a full member of this European Federation of Choirs..

# Urbanus Junior Choir

The Urbanus Junior Choir is an offshoot of Chorus Urbanus, the latter having been established since 1975. In July 2017 Chorus Urbanus re-launched the Junior Choir under the direction of Maureen Zerafa and it gave its inaugural performance during the Christmas Concert in the same year. During this concert the Juniors performed a solo piece 'We're Walking in the Air' and accompanied the senior choir in a number of carols most notably being Silent Night, Adeste Fideles, Somewhere in My Memory, and Ninni La Tibkix Ized. This was the start of a new journey which is now seeing the Junior Choir going from strength to strength.

In March 2018 the Junior Choir took part in 'The Last Words of Jesus Christ on the Cross' together with the participation of Chorus Urbanus during the Lenten period. In May 2018 the Junior choir together with the Chorus Urbanus presented 'Feel the Magic'. This activity consisted of a selection of all time favourite songs from popular animation movies at Villa Rundle which was transformed into a fantasy garden for the occasion.

Christmas 2018 brought many other opportunities for this choir, where the Junoir choir took part in a number of "Christmas in Gozo" events. They performed Christmas carols in the Christmas Village at the Gozitano Agricultural Village, Xewkija, at the Victoria Playing field, in Villa Rundle – Christmas caroling, L-Istrina – in the presence of H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro and finally in the annual Christmas concert at St George's Basilica in December. During the latter concert, the Junior Choir sang their hearts out backed by the Chorus Urbanus and by the excellent playing of the Urbanus Festive Orchestra. The Junior choir performed 'Caro Gesu Bambino' solo part given to Kurt Theuma Scerri and Hannah Vella, and 'Tifel fqajjar' sung by Kristen Grima. 2018 ended with the choir's participation in the series 'Trail of Voices', an evening of choir music around Victoria together with Chorus Urbanus at the Nativity BVM Savina Church.

In April 2019 the Junior choir performed during the re-enactment of the Tenebrae procession (aka The Black procession) a Holy Week activity organized by 'Ghaqda Dilettanti Gimgha I Kbira'. In May 2019 Chorus Urbanus Junior choir performed at the Alive Junior Song Fest, under the direction of Ms Maureen Zerafa together with vibrant choreographies by the Centre Stage Dance Academy under the direction of Ms Natalie Sciortino. Tonight the Junior Choir is taking part in this high profile 'Feel the Magic' concert together with the Chorus Urbanus, undoubtedly a milestone in the choir's relatively short history.



## JOSEPH PORTELLI PROJECTS

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## Malta Concert Orchestra

The orchestra, formerly known as the PBS Orchestra, was set up in 2014. In 2017 it moved to Pjazza Teatru Rjal and was rebranded as the Malta Concert Orchestra with a mission "to reach out to people across the board through accessible and inspiring musical performances."

The MCO is a versatile ensemble made up of professional and semi-professional musicians who perform in formations of various sizes depending on venue and occasion under the direction of its associate conductors Paul Abela and Joe Brown.

During its short history the orchestra has already performed an impressive number of performances around Malta and Gozo with annual editions of Suċċessi Maltin, Notte Italiana, A Night at the Musicals, charity Christmas concerts as well as a number of free concerts in various localities around Malta as part of Pjazza Teatru Rjal's community outreach programme Pjazza fi Pjazza.

The Malta Concert Orchestra has also been instrumental for the success of L-Ghanja tal-Poplu | Festival tal-Kanzunetta Maltija, Malta's only song contest in Maltese performed with the backing of a live orchestra.

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## Centre Stage Dance Academy

Centre Stage Dance Academy was established in 2008 by local dancer Natalie Sciortino. This dance school today boasts of over 250 students who specialize in classical ballet, tap, jazz and acro. Throughout the past ten years, Centre Stage has had many successes namely 6 major dance shows, the most recent being its Tenth Anniversary Dance Show, winner of several local competitions, being twice chosen to perform at London Dance Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, hundreds of successful exam entries as well as being chosen to perform at Disneyland Park Paris.

Tonight, the Centre Stage Dance Academy troupe will be interpreting several of tonight's concert's orchestrated musical numbers accompanied by the Malta Concert Orchestra and the senior and the junior sections of Chorus Urbanus.

# MARCHESE

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# Credits

Artistic Director/ Conductor	<b>Dr. John Galea</b>
Artistic Director/ Production Manager	<b>Jamie Camilleri</b>
Ass. Production Manager	<b>Josianne Caruana Xerri</b>
Ass. Musical Director Chorus Urbanus	<b>Mro. Mark Gauci</b>
Urbanus Junior Choir Mistress	<b>Maureen Zerafa</b>
Ass. Urbanus Junior Choir Mistress	<b>Hilda Grima</b>
Soloists	<b>Yvonne Galea, Ruth Portelli, Hilda Grima, Fabian Galea, Mario Portelli, Maria Cassar, Antonella Rapa, George Borg, Karl Joseph Buhagiar, Janelle Rapa, Riden Glinofria</b>
Soloists (Juniors)	<b>Kristen Grima, Gabriel Grech, Nina Debono, Andreas Refalo, Kurt Theuma Scerri, Krista Mercieca, Hannah Vella, Shaniah Portelli</b>
Orchestra Leader	<b>Antoine Frendo</b>
Sound Engineer	<b>Sergio Costa</b>
Light Engineer	<b>Chris Gauci</b>
Stage Construction	<b>Teddie Mizzi</b>
P.R.O.	<b>David Grech</b>
Graphics Design	<b>George Borg</b>
Project Manager	<b>Hilda Grima</b>
Costume Mistresses	<b>Yvonne Galea, Antoinette Borg</b>
Logistics	<b>George Sacco Xerri, Charlie Sacco</b>
Financial Controller	<b>Charlie Sacco</b>
Website Management	<b>George Borg, George Galea</b>
Committee Members	<b>Architect Edward Scerri, Dr John Galea, George Sacco Xerri, George Borg, David Grech, Yvonne Galea, Hilda Grima, Pauline Camilleri</b>
Compere	<b>Amanda Ciappara Mizzi</b>

## Chorus Urbanus Productions

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## Gozo Cultural Support Programme



  
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06 Oct 2019

15 Dec 2019



**Chorus Urbanus  
Urbanus Junior Choir**